



July, 2008

## THE GREEN SCENE

### Let's *Go Fore It!* this Summer

July is well-known for fireworks, barbeques and fun in the sun, and now it's also the month the Department of Parks and Recreation encourages you to **Go Fore It!** as part of our **Play for Life!** public information campaign. With the largest Municipal Golf Course system in the country, you can **Go Fore It!** at one of our 19 golf courses.

All 19 courses feature a variety of beautiful and interesting settings from the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific coastline overlooking Catalina Island and offers affordable greens fees, discount programs for senior citizens and students, along with an excellent Junior Golf Program! For more information on the Junior Golf Program, go to [www.lacountyjunorgolf.com](http://www.lacountyjunorgolf.com). The golf division also has county-sponsored golf tournaments for men, women, seniors and monthly events held through the Los Angeles County Golf Club. For more information on tournaments, visit [www.lacountygolfclub.com](http://www.lacountygolfclub.com).



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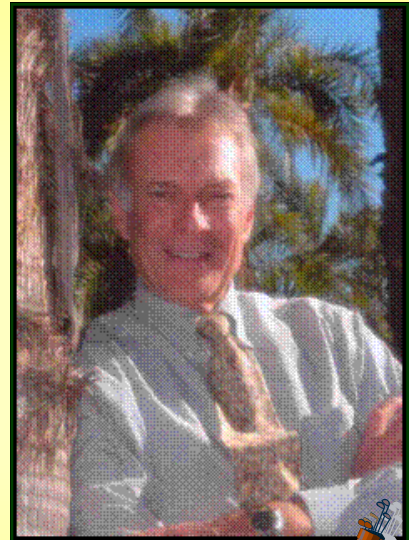
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Of the 19 Los Angeles County golf courses, 13 are 18-hole regulation length courses, three are convenient 9-hole regulation length courses, one is a challenging 18-hole executive length course, one is an 18-hole par-three course, and one is a 9-hole par-three course. Los Angeles County golf courses offer an extremely popular sport that everyone can participate in and enjoy without breaking their piggy banks, and in this economy that's invaluable!

Whether or not your name is Tiger, just **Go Fore It!** at one of the L.A. County golf courses and we guarantee you'll have fun!

## Greetings from the Director

In this issue of the Green Scene, you will find many examples of how people in our department **Go Fore It!** While the department campaign invites people to *Go Fore It!* at one of our 19 beautiful golf courses, I invite you to *Go Fore It!* in however you are motivated to get outdoors and stay healthy. You know by now that our department has a wealth of resources for virtually any sport or recreational activity in which you may be interested. The only thing that could possibly be missing is the desire. So join us this month and encourage others you come across as you wear your bright yellow button to *Go Fore It!*, go for fun and go for health.



*Russ Guiney, Director*



## Los Angeles County Golf FACTS-n-FIGURES

- Los Angeles County golf courses generate 16 million dollars in revenue for the Department which accounts for approximately 30% of the department's revenue.
- As a junior golfer, Tiger Woods played extensively at the Lakewood Golf Course and had his golf clubs repaired by Junior Golf Director Mike McMonegal.
- Comedian George Lopez took up the game of golf at El Cariso Golf Course where Assistant Golf Director Tim Smith served as General Manager.
- One can see the Pacific Ocean from all 18 holes at Los Verdes Golf Course, something that the Pebble Beach Golf Club can't boast about.



## Contracts, Golf, and Special Districts Division



### Contracts and Golf

**Front Row:** Gloria Belmontes

**Second Row:** Rosanna Caudillo, Sandra Salazar, Kandy Hays, Connie Douglas, Joyce Fitzpatrick, Carla Malekian, Liza Jara

**Third Row:** Delores Rios-Ramirez, Matthew Green, Mike Kriste, Armando Ramirez, Tim Smith, Humberto Chairez, Zenola Cochrane, Larry Lee, Lloyd Truong

**Back Row:** David Mesa, Alen Akopyan, Jorge Badel

**Missing:** Katherine Avina, Leon Keel, and Mike McMonegal

Contracts, Golf and Special Districts are under the management of Division Chief Kandy Hays. Golf Operations has benefited from the close working relationship with the contracts unit.

Jorge Badel, Senior Golf Director oversees the daily operation of the Golf Section. On February 1, 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved the Golf Section Golf Improvement Fee (GCIF), which increased green fees by .50 cents and \$1.00 based on the fee category at each course. This increase in revenue will be used solely for Capital Improvements at each golf course that participated in this program.

Mike Kriste and Gloria Belmontes, Contract Managers, oversee the daily operation of the Contract Development and Compliance Sections. The Section completed the re-solicitation of 36 landscape and security contracts during the last 18 months. This equates to filing two contracts each month with Board of Supervisors which is very difficult to accomplish. The Department recognized the Section for this effort and awarded them "Agency Facility of the Month" for March 2008.

In addition, on March 18, 2008, a five year agreement was awarded for Festivals and Fairs with O'Entertainment Inc., which generated \$105,000 revenue in the first year. On March 25, 2008, a five year agreement was awarded with Renaissance Fair Inc., generated \$336,000 in revenue the first year.

While working together, both Sections have contributed to the Department ability to improve and provide quality recreational services to the public through quality contracts and assurance of steady revenue sources for the Department.

Special Districts provides maintenance, including mowing, weeding, trimming, fertilizing the plant material and utility costs, such as water and electricity, of landscaped and other open space areas designated within the boundary of the Districts for which maintenance easements have been granted to the County.

### Special Districts

**Front Row** (left to right): Michelle De La Torre, Deputy Director Debbie Martin, Kay Anderson, Patti Switzer, Judy Benavidez, Bud Sherman, Susan Moreland, Kandy Hays

**Back Row** (left to right): Igor Bagmanian, Wes Perreyclear, Patrick Malekian, Stephen Schudell, Norm Phillips, Cruz Romero

**Missing:** Tina Nuss, and Anthony Myles



## Special Districts Section Completion of Certificate Program Local Government and Special Districts Institute



**From Left to Right:** Patrick Malekian, Susan Moreland, Kandy Hays, Igor Bagmanian

The Special Districts Section is responsible for the administration of three Landscape and Lighting Act (LLAD) Districts. These Districts encompass a total of approximately 34,600 parcels and other open space areas, designated with the boundary of the Districts for which maintenance easements have been granted to the County. Benefiting properties pay an assessment through their property tax bills to maintain and service the landscaping and appurtenant improvements within these Districts. The section oversees an annual operating budget of \$6.2 million and \$19.2 million in operating revenues.

On June 27, 2008, the Division Chief Kandy Hays, along with Special Districts Administrator Patrick Malekian, and staff Igor Bagmanian, and Susan Moreland, received their Certificate of Completion from the Special Districts and Local Government Institute. The Certificate Program in Local Government Leadership and Management is an intense three-seminar series designed specifically for Board Members, Managers and Staff of Special Districts and Local Government.

Their completion of the Certificate Program came immediately following the Department's success of a ballot measure of an assessment increase to an area that was in need of additional funds. By an overwhelming margin of 2 to 1, the property owners in Zone 21 (Sunset Point) approved an increase to their annual assessment. The increase in the assessment will pay for a greater level of ongoing maintenance, upgrade in irrigation infrastructure, and undertake major trimming of the trees and replanting of much of the slope areas with plants and ground cover to improve slope stability.



## Los Angeles County Golf Gets New Director: Jorge Badel

Senior Golf Director, Jorge Badel, is the epitomy of July's featured phrase, "*Go Fore It!*," because he practically lives, eats and breathes everything about golf! He began his county service in 2005, as an Assistant Golf Director, taking on his position with great enthusiasm and passion, since Los Angeles County Golf has always played a major role in his life.

He grew up across the street from the Lakewood Golf Course where he would wade in the lake for golf balls and sell soda pop to golfers during the summer. He took golf lessons at the course and played on a monthly Junior Playcard that one could purchase for ten dollars to play 20 rounds of golf.

He is an accomplished player having competed in the 1974 and 1977 Junior World Championships, the 1977 National PGA Junior Championship and the 1985 USGA National Publinks Championship.

He is a Class "A" member of the PGA of America and has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Lakewood Men's golf club.

In 1999, Jorge entered the high-end daily fee golf business as the General Manager of the Cascades Golf Club in Sylmar, CA. "I stole many golfers from Knollwood and El Cariso golf courses (both County facilities) ....boy, did I feel guilty about that," he says.

"I assume this position with great responsibility as my staff and I am directly responsible for providing a positive recreational experience for over 2,000,000 annual visitors to our facilities," Jorge says about his current role. Outside work, Jorge enjoys his personal life, raising his two beautiful daughters, being a "frustrated" surfer, and of course, playing golf.



## Los Angeles County Golf Club

Ever have dreams of being the next Tiger Woods? Want to play your favorite sport in settings that offer breathtaking views from the mountains to the ocean? If so, make those thoughts into a reality by considering the L.A. County Golf Club. Far from other “traditional” golf clubs, industry professional Jorge Badel states that the L.A. County Golf Club is an “innovative collaboration with the Public Links Golf Association (PLGA), Type 3 golf club.” L.A. County holds the largest municipally owned golf system in the nation, offering a whopping 17 facilities with 19 golf courses. As opposed to being affiliated to a particular golf course—which is the practice of other “traditional” clubs—L.A. County Golf Club members have the opportunity to enjoy monthly “travelling” access to facilities under the L.A. County Golf System.

In 2005, the L.A. County Golf Club began as a vision to promote the world of L.A. County golf to the average individual. Priding itself in providing affordable greens fees, senior discounts, free junior golf clinics, industry professionals and challenging layouts for all skill levels; individuals young or old and/or novice or veteran are able to reap the benefits the L.A. County Golf Club has to offer.

For a mere \$49, an individual can join by logging on to [www.lacountygolfclub.com](http://www.lacountygolfclub.com). While seasoned players will be attracted to the competitive program and access to high in-demand courses, golf newbies will be happy to learn that no previous experience or particular score is needed to join. Benefits of a membership include: USGA handicap, access to the L.A. County Golf System and once-a-month (minimum) tournament participation.

By advertising and word-of-mouth this golf club has grown from 70 members (2006) to 150 members (2008), and another 100+ members are expected to join by 2009. Be a part of this diverse and expanding group by

## Mike McMonegal and Jorge Badel *Go Fore It!* at U.S. Open

Junior Golf Director Mike McMonegal and Senior Golf Director Jorge Badel take their love of golf to personal extremes. Last month, they served as player “markers” in assisting the players and officials in identifying the location of the contestants golf shots and maintaining separation between the players and the crowds at the 103rd U.S. Open at Torrey Pines Golf Course. The stint may have been a volunteer position, but it allowed them to literally rub shoulders with Tiger Woods as he won the event, a memory that Jorge says he “will never forget.” Kudos to Mike and Jorge for loving the sport of golf and *Going fore It!*



## Jr. Golf Program

The Jr. Golf Program is a year-round program that offers golf lessons to juniors under 18 years old. Initial funding was provided by Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor Don Knabe. The program travels to all county golf courses offering weeklong after school and summer programming, as well as one day clinics. Junior golf participants have steadily increased each year and currently over 2,000 juniors receive free golf lessons annually. To manage this increase of participants, the Jr. Golf Program has expanded by now having two Assistant Golf Directors, Mike McMonegal, Program Director for the Southern Section and Tim Smith, Program Director for the Northern Section. For more information regarding the Jr. Golf Program visit [www.lacountyjuniorgolf.com](http://www.lacountyjuniorgolf.com)

*"The Program exceeded my expectations and made it so much fun for my kids. It was very well organized. They really loved the putting contest. I called Mike McMonegal and being a government agency never expected him to return my call, but he called me back within five minutes. The program was well organized."*

Jana, mother of Alex (13) and Blake (5)  
South Torrance



Alex, 13 years old, said *"the Junior Golf Program was a good experience and helped my swing. The putting contest was my favorite, I got 4th place. Everyone was nice and helpful."*

*"My favorite part was the driving range".*

Matthew, 3 years old



**Front Row:** Evan Johnson (kneeling)

**Back Row (from left to right):** Coach Nick Scott, Assistant Golf Director Mike McMonegal, Coach Clay McCutcheon, Tyler Stibal, Robert Swartz, Coach Brandon Redmerski, Ryan Schroyer, Coach Clark Corbett, Coach Ian McCutcheon, Coach Brian Gonzalez, Coach Billy Sutt.

*"Kyle who is 6 and Sydney who is 5, would not stop talking about golf after the first day. I was amazed that the program was free".*

Kyle and Sydney's Dad



## July is National Parks and Recreation Month

July has been designated as Parks and Recreation Month by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). On July 8, 2008 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the month of July 2008 as "Parks and Recreation Month" throughout the County commending the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation for their hard work and continuous commitment to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Los Angeles County.

In addition to encouraging residents of all ages to visit their local parks and take part in the many fun and healthy activities and programs available, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the National Park Service and California State Parks also joined efforts to endorse the California Outdoor Bill of Rights.

The Board of Supervisors also officially endorsed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (COBR). Our department joins California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in supporting COBR. COBR provides that all children should have the right to participate in the following 10 outdoor experiences before the age of 14:



Numerous studies report that children who partake in the ten activities listed in COBR are healthier, do better in school and lead happier lives. All of the COBR activities can be experienced at park facilities throughout Los Angeles County and many surrounding cities and organizations.

Join us as we celebrate July as "National Parks and Recreation Month" by encouraging all citizens of the county to stay active, be healthy, and recreate throughout our many parks and programs, and encourage all the children in your lives to experience all 10 COBR outdoor activities.



## Los Angeles County Golf Courses

### **Alondra Golf Course**

16400 S. Prairie Ave.  
Lawndale, CA 90260  
(310) 217-9919

### **Altadena Golf Course**

1456 E. Mendocino St.  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(626) 797-3821

### **Diamond Bar Golf Course**

22751 E. Golden Springs Dr.  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
(909) 861-8282

### **Knollwood Golf Course**

12040 Balboa Blvd.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344  
(818) 363-8161

### **El Cariso Golf Course**

13100 Eldridge St.  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 367-8742

### **Los Verdes Golf Course**

7000 W. Los Verdes Dr.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
(310) 377-7370

### **La Mirada Golf Course**

15501 E. Alicante Rd.  
La Mirada, CA 90638  
(562) 943-7123

### **Maggie Hathaway Golf Course**

9637 S. Western Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90047  
(323) 755-6285

### **Lakewood Golf Course**

3101 E. Carson St.  
Lakewood, CA 90712  
(562) 429-9711

### **Eaton Canyon Golf Course**

1150 N. Sierra Madre Villa Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 794-6773

### **Marshall Canyon Golf Course**

6100 N. Stephens Ranch Rd.  
La Verne, CA 91750  
(909) 593-8211

### **Santa Anita Golf Course**

405 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
(626) 447-2331

### **Los Amigos Golf Course**

7295 E. Quill Dr.  
Downey, CA 90242  
(562) 869-0302

### **Victoria Golf Course**

340 E. 192nd St.  
Carson, CA 90746  
(310) 323-4174

### **Mountain Meadows Golf Course**

1875 Fairplex Dr.  
Pomona, CA 91768  
(909) 623-3704

### **Chester Washington Golf Course**

1930 W. 120th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90047  
(323) 756-6975

### **Whittier Narrows Golf Course**

8640 E. Rush Street  
Rosemead, CA 91770  
(626) 288-1044

# HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

My two boys just completed their first year in your Junior Golf Program. They were a little apprehensive about golf, but having played a few times they were ready to attend your program. Needless to say, they are happy to have attended your wonderful program. Thank you to the wonderful staff.

Mr. Ray Evangelista  
Claremont, CA

I want to thank you for supporting the Los Angeles County Junior Golf Program. Both of my boys enjoyed participating in the program and were disappointed when their week-long clinic came to an end.

Mrs. Felisha S. Robinson  
Duarte, CA

My son has just completed his 1st week of golf lessons through the Junior Golf Program. He and I both enjoyed the experience and feel it is a fine and valuable program. Kudos to Tim Smith and all the coaches involved who were helpful and accommodating.

Mr. Jonathan Hertz  
Temple City, CA

I am writing in support of the Junior Golf Program. We were extremely pleased with the program. Coach Brandon was phenomenal, very supportive, positive, patient and encouraging. He made it fun for my shy daughter and she is excited to continue golf. I would also like to commend Program Director Tim Smith, who was very well organized, professional and had such a positive demeanor with the children, their parents and their staff.

Mrs. Theodora Coulis  
Sierra Madre, CA

My children, ages 5 and 7, just completed one week of the Junior Golf Program and it was a wonderful experience for both of them. We were so excited to learn that the program had expanded from just summer camp to after school as well. The coaches continue to be very helpful and patient with the children. I have recommended this program to several friends and they have been pleased as well.

Kurin Perry  
Long Beach, CA

## COMING NEXT MONTH:

- *Walk it Off!* Month
- Department Awards Update
- Walking Clubs... and more!

## GIVE Someone a HIGH FIVE!

Do you know someone in our department who deserves special recognition? Maybe you were on a tight deadline and that person helped you meet it. Maybe you were having a tough work day and that person helped you beat it. You know who those people are, the ones who go above and beyond. Help us recognize them. Email their name and a short paragraph of why they deserve a High Five! to [iperius@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:iperius@parks.lacounty.gov) and we'll do our best to include them in the High Five! column of The Green Scene.



## County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Yvonne B. Burke  
Chair  
Second District

Gloria Molina  
First District

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

Don Knabe  
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

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